The support to research is enhanced through S&T mission mode programmes, establishment of new research centres of excellence, international collaborative projects, strengthening of R&D infrastructure in academic institutions and research labs, institution of prestigious fellowships like Swarnajayanti Fellowship for outstanding Young Scientists, Ramanna Fellowship for performing scientists, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Fellowship for Young Scientists, Ramanujan Fellowships to attract outstanding scientists and engineers from all over the world to take up scientific research in our country, J.C. Bose Fellowships to recognize and support active, performing Indian scientists and engineers. More recently, three new Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISER)s) have been set up at Kolkata, Pune and Chandigarh, which, apart from carrying out frontline and internationally competitive research, would offer integrated M.Sc. programmes in a multi-disciplinary and academically flexible and research-oriented environment.

The Government, in the XI Plan is also proposing to launch a new scheme called INSPIRE (Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research). The main features of the proposed scheme will be: (1) innovation funding in schools (one million young innovators); (2) summer camp with science ions (for high performers); (3) assured opportunity schemes for proven talent force; and, (4) retention of talent in public funded research through public-private parternships. In addition, scientific research in our country will be boosted by India partcipation with the International Community on Mega Science Projects like Facility for Anti Proton and Ion Researh (FAIR), Facility for Synchrotron Radiation Source, etc.

Organisation of Indian Science Congress in Tamil Nadu

†679. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Science Congress was organized at Chidambram in Tamil Nadu in the first week of January, 2007;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the name of the organizer of Indian Science Congress and what arrangement Government had made for the security, etc. for the scientists;

(c) whether it is also a fact that several scientists and security men had fallen ill there due to contaminated food; and

(d) if so, the people which were found responsible for this?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir. The 94th Indian Science Congress was organized at Chidambaram in Tamil Nadu.

(b) The 94th Indian Science Congress was organized by the Indian Science Congress Association, Kolkata at Annamalai University, Annamalainagar-608002, Chidambaram. The security arrangements were made by the SPG of Government of India in Coordination with Tamil Nadu State Police personnel (which included DGP, IG, DIGSPs. DSPs and their contingents).

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Shortage of scientists in research and development institutions

680. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is acute shortage of scientists in research institutes in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether owning to poor salaries, perks and early retirement age in Government scientific institutes, a number of young and promising scientists are opting for private and overseas assignments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken by Government to arrest attrition and attract promising talents into the country's R & D institutes?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) No Sir. The mobility of scientists from the research